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BANK-NESTING STARLINGS

CHANDLER S. ROBBINS

On May 25, 1985, while looking for kingfisher nests in an abandoned gravel pit in Prince George's County near Laurel, Maryland, I approached one of two Bank Swallow (*Riparia riparia*) colonies. As I walked along the base of the bank in which the nest holes were located, I noticed that several European Starlings (*Sturnus vulgaris*) at the top of the bank were scolding vigorously, apparently disturbed over the presence of a predator. Not until a starling suddenly flew out of one of three large nest holes in the bank did I realize that I was the source of their disturbance. As soon as I walked 10m away the vocalization ceased. I could not reach the starling burrows to take measurements, but they were about 10 cm in diameter, a little larger than Belted Kingfisher (*Ceryle alcyon*) burrows, and lacked the characteristic footmarks.

Bent (U.S. National Museum Bull. 197, 1960) states that "Starlings' nests have also been found in holes in haystacks, holes in cliffs and banks, such as the old burrows of kingfishers and bank swallows, and in cavities among rocks or heaps of stones." He did not cite references for this statement, and I have found no references to bank-nesting in Feare's *The Starling* (Oxford, 1984) or in other publications. In a study of starling nests in West Virginia highway cuts along I-79 and US 48, Michael and Taylor (*Condor* 80: 113-115, 1978) found 127 nests in cavities in rock cliffs, but none in earthen cuts. Thus, it is uncertain whether bank nesting has previously been reported in the New World. The Maryland Ornithological Society's 456 nest record cards for this species include no bank-nesting starling records for Maryland.

Atlas workers should be warned that large holes in banks cannot be assumed to have been occupied by kingfishers.

I thank Chris Grue for calling my attention to the Michael reference, and I thank Richard Jachowski and Barbara Dowell for their comments on an earlier draft of the manuscript.

*U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Patuxent Wildlife Research Center, Laurel, MD 20708*

STATEWIDE BIRD COUNT, MAY 4, 1985

MIKE RESCH

Nearly ideal weather conditions greeted observers on the 38th annual Statewide Bird Count on May 4. Skies across the state were clear to partly cloudy, with calm air or light breezes, and temperatures ranging from a chilly low of 27° in northern Baltimore County to a pleasant high of 78° in Anne Arundel and Charles Counties. A total of 324 observers in about 159 parties came out to enjoy this beautiful spring day, amassing more than 1100 party-hours in the field or at feeders. The 4750 party-miles reported were roughly equivalent to 1½ trips across the United States. Observers combing the Maryland countryside saw or heard over 121,000 birds of 225 species, plus one hybrid (Table 1).

In keeping with recent tradition, counts were received from all Maryland counties as well as the District of Columbia. The count in Garrett County was made on May 11 instead of on the same day as the rest of the state; the Garrett species totals are included in Table 1, but are not included in the statewide totals in that table.

Kent County observers reported the highest species total of 165 (Fig. 1). Second place went to Baltimore with 159, followed closely by Dorchester with 158 species. There were 21 species seen in every county, and an additional 19 were seen in all counties except one. On the other hand, 14 species were found in only one county, led by Allegany and Dorchester with three each. Maryland's smallest county, Howard, tallied the highest number of individuals (13,251), followed by Prince Georges (10,961) and Baltimore (10,284). These numbers are skewed, however, by the fact that Howard County had two to three times as many parties as Prince Georges or Baltimore.

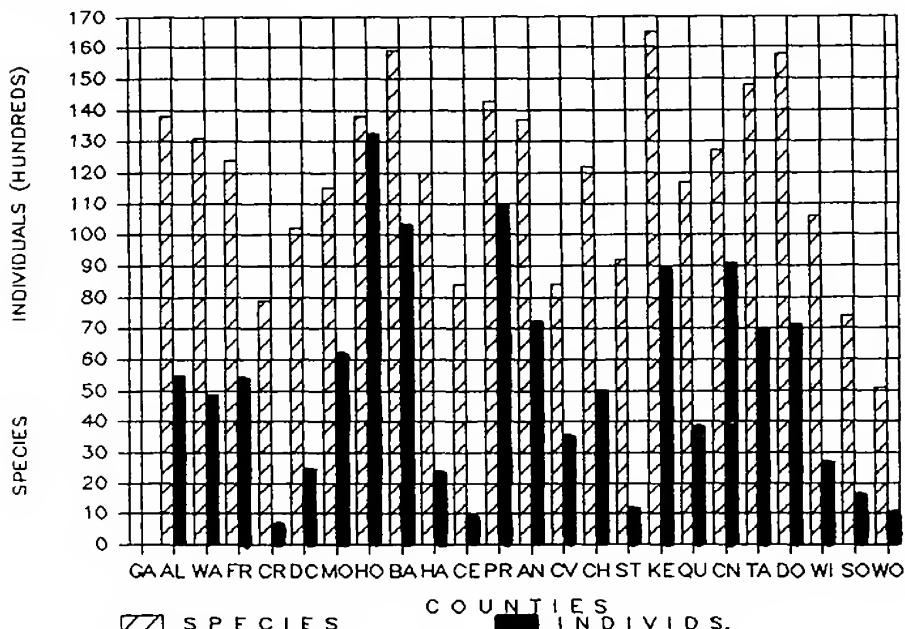


Figure 1. Number of species and individuals, by counties, May 4, 1985.

Howard County had the largest number of observers (51), followed by Montgomery (36), Allegany (29), and Caroline (28). Kudos are in order for the compilers of these latter two counties who were able to attract so many participants far from major population centers. On the negative side, only one observer participated in the District of Columbia and in Cecil and Worcester (!) Counties. The May Count has always had a problem getting sufficient coverage for several of the lower Eastern Shore counties.

Selected rarities and notable sightings are mentioned below, in relation to observations on the 15 preceding May Counts.

Great Egret in Frederick County; recorded on May Counts only three times 1970 to 1984 inclusive from the counties west of those bordering the Bay, including once before in Frederick.

Tricolored Heron in St. Marys (acceptable details provided by Patty Craig); reported only twice west of the Bay since 1969, once in St. Marys.

Surf Scoters (2) in Allegany (acceptable details by Paul Nazelrod, Ann & Paul Smith); reported only five times on post-1969 May Counts and never before from counties west of tidewater.

Common Goldeneye in Howard (acceptable details by Mike Leumas); only three sightings from counties west of the Bay counties on post-1969 Counts, never before from Howard.

Black Rail in St. Marys (acceptable details by Patty Craig); reported seven times outside Dorchester on post-1969 Counts and never in St. Marys.

Willet in Frederick by Bonnie Smith; reported only once since 1969 west of the Bay counties, and never in Frederick.

Black Skimmers (4) in Dorchester; reported only three times outside Worcester on post-1969 Counts, but now nesting in Dorchester.

Willow Flycatcher in Baltimore County (acceptable details by Bob Dixon); only seven previous reports on post-1969 Counts and never in Baltimore.

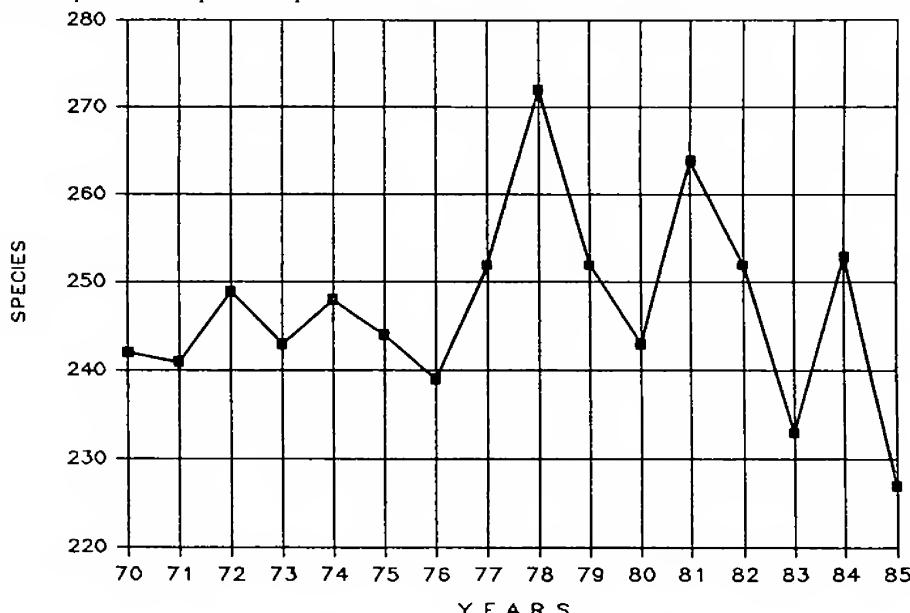


Figure 2. Total species on May Counts, 1970-85.

Sedge Wrens (4) in Allegany (acceptable details provided by Teresa Simons, Deloris Gingerich, Mary Cordt, Mark Weatherhold); reported only twice west of the Bay counties on post-1969 Counts; once in Allegany.

Loggerhead Shrikes, pair at nest site in Frederick, and one in Harford; reported 16 times across the state on post-1969 Counts and never in Harford. Spring sightings of these birds are always exciting.

Lincoln's Sparrow in Baltimore (acceptable details by Bob Dixon); reported 16 times across Maryland on post-1969 Counts (but how many of these were accompanied by acceptable details?); never seen on Baltimore counts during the 15-year period.

An "eggshell" comparison of the total species observed on the 1985 May Count with May Counts during the 1970-84 era is provided in Figure 2. The total species for the 1985 count was the lowest during this period. The primary reasons for the low species count were the limited coverage on the lower Eastern Shore (additional coverage in Worcester could have added 5 to 10 species to the state total), the lower number of lingering waterfowl, and the small number of observers. Only in 1971 were there fewer observers. Reasons for the overall high variance in total species during this 16-year period include variable coastal coverage, variations in arrival dates for migratory species with respect to the date of the counts, and weather conditions.

Population trends for four bird species for the 1973-85 period are indicated in Figures 3 through 6. For each of the years during this era, these figures present the May Count totals for each given species divided by the total party-hours for that year. The Bald Eagle graph (Figure 3) shows reasonably constant values for 1973-80, followed by substantial increases during the 1981-85 period. The 1985 total per party-hour was three times the median value for the 1973-1980 period.

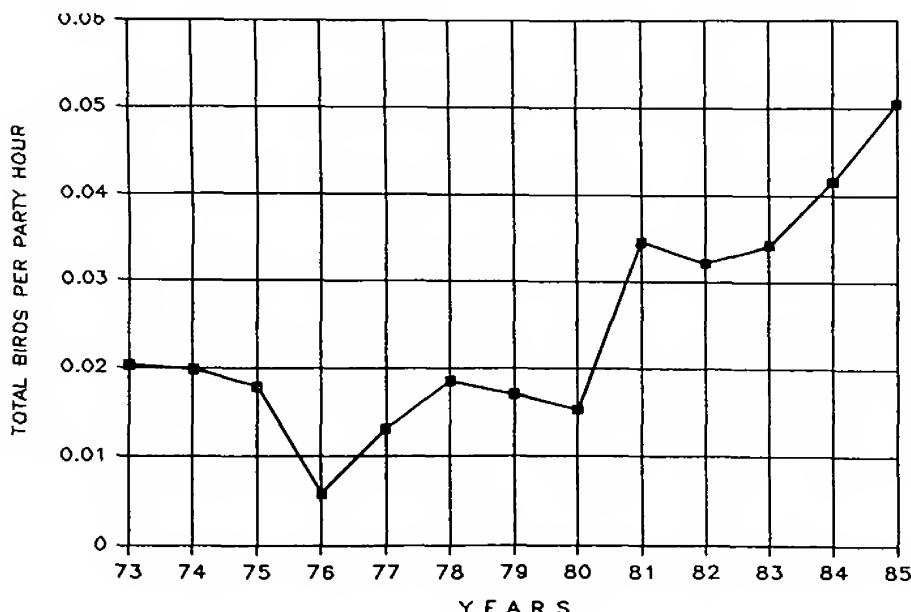


Figure 3. Bald Eagles per party-hour on May Counts, 1973-85.

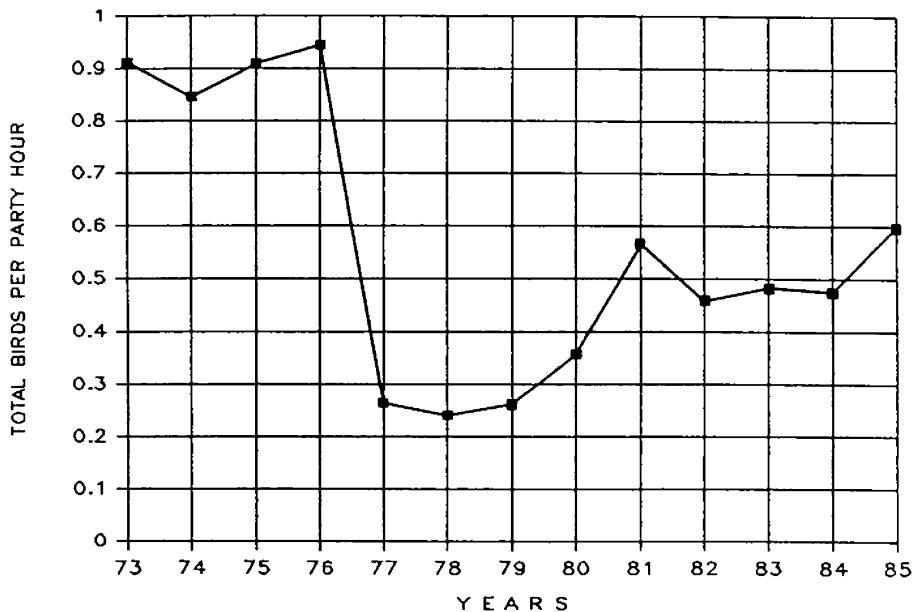


Figure 4. Carolina Wrens per party-hour on May Counts, 1973-85.

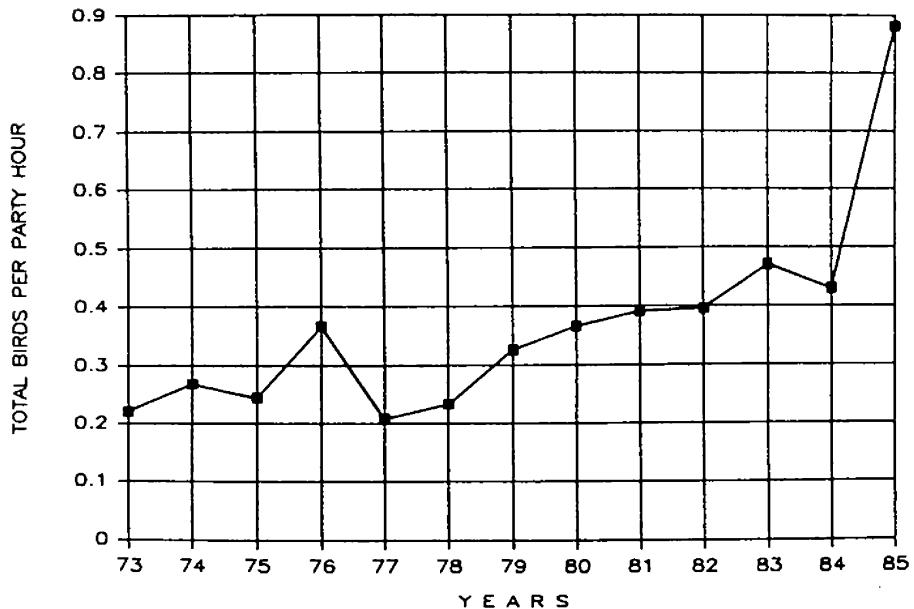


Figure 5. Eastern Bluebirds per party-hour on May Counts, 1973-85.

Figure 4 provides an excellent portrayal of the Carolina Wren population crash that occurred during the severe winter of 1976-77. Although totals per party-hour have increased gradually since the '77-'79 minimum, the 1985 value is only two-thirds of the pre-1977 values. Long-term population increases are shown for the Eastern Bluebird in Figure 5 and for the House Finch in Figure 6. Annual bluebird increases have been rather gradual, with the exception of the more dramatic increase from 1984 to 1985. On the other hand, House Finch totals per party-hour have increased at a nearly geometric rate during the 1973-85 period. One wonders how long this type of increase will continue.

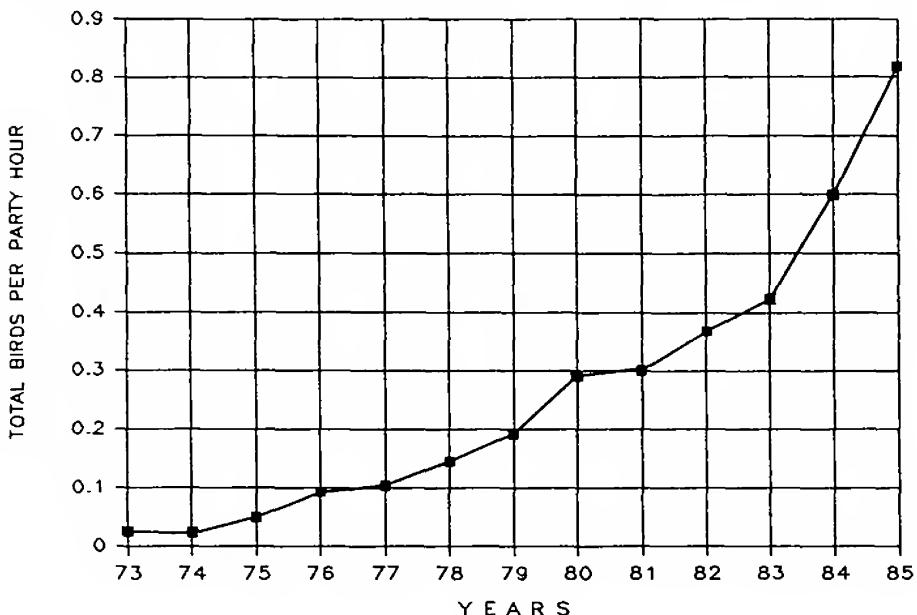


Figure 6. House Finches per party-hour on May Counts, 1973-85.

The reader must realize that conclusions drawn from May Count results are only as good as the raw data obtained from observers and compilers. Many May Count observers are prone to concentrate their efforts in search of the more unusual species. This could result in unnaturally low totals per party-hour for House Sparrows and starlings, and high totals per party-hour for orioles and tanagers. Additionally, in past years, many observers and compilers did not report complete party-hour totals. Many pre-1980 May Counts only reported total party-hours without totals for owling, car, and foot hours. Therefore, only total party-hours were used in Figures 3 through 6 to normalize the totals. Ideally, these population trends should have only used daytime party-hours to normalize the totals. Also, because the vast majority of wrens are observed while on foot with very few added while birding from the car, only foot party-hours should have been used for the Carolina Wren figure. Despite these potential problems, these figures still present very thought provoking trends.

I thank all the observers and especially the compilers who assisted with this Count. I hope all of you will participate on the Statewide Bird Count of May 2, 1987.

COMPILERS AND OBSERVERS

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Table 1. Statewide Count, May 4, 1985

Table 1. Statewide Count, May 4, 1985 (cont.)

PrGe	AnAr	Calv	Char	StMa	Kent	QuAn	Carn	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Some	Wore	Total	Cos.
—	2	—	1	1	—	12	1	5	18	—	2	—	58	13
—	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	4
1	69	4	52	—	24	25	—	—	81	26	11	—	327	12
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	6	—	—	—	9	4
116	27	30	612	12	84	43	28	28	54	6	2	1	1090	21
—	1	—	1	2	1	3	2	4	12	1	1	6	36	13
1	—	1	—	1	—	32	—	7	40	2	7	14	105	9
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	—	—	7	2
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
3	—	—	—	7	8	—	6	35	9	—	6	28	110	10
19	9	1	3	3	6	7	7	9	10	5	12	—	142	20
1	1	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	5	—	—	—	42	8
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	—	8	—	21	2
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	3
1	—	—	—	—	23	8	2	12	—	—	—	—	47	6
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	20	—	1	—	—	—	21	2
135	4	—	8	—	333	7	3	22	83	18	—	31	945	19
34	5	1	19	—	12	24	32	20	11	2	1	—	318	20
—	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	15	—	—	—	19	4
7	—	—	—	2	3	46	2	5	56	2	—	—	133	12
30	69	6	13	22	428	20	53	44	62	23	22	17	1500	22
6	4	—	—	—	1	—	2	3	16	2	—	—	55	13
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	3	2
—	7	—	6	—	—	19	—	—	—	1	—	—	43	5
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	—	12	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	11	3
—	60	—	—	—	2	—	—	1	4	—	—	—	98	5
3	3	10	4	1	11	5	7	29	9	—	1	—	234	17
47	33	27	17	23	106	43	258	132	87	59	35	20	1267	23
14	11	5	29	16	25	26	10	59	42	10	17	2	304	21
8/3	1/0	—	2/4	—	7/5	4	3/0	6/2	11/5	0/1	1/0	—	58	10
1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	11	1	—	—	19	8
1	6	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	24	12
2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2
11	8	1	12	6	3	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	113	17
1	13	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	47	12
10	2	7	5	2	9	3	15	9	8	6	2	—	135	18
3	—	—	2	1	3	2	4	2	1	2	2	—	67	17
—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	111	9
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	3
16	21	13	26	11	42	39	89	74	54	31	22	1	519	22
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	12	—	—	—	13	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	3	1

Table 1. Statewide Count, May 4, 1985 (cont.)

	Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Crll	D.C.	Mont	Howa	Balt	Harf	Ceci
King Rail	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Virginia Rail	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Sora	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Moorhen	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
American Coot	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Black-bellied Plover	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Semipalmated Plover	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	3
Killdeer	8	28	11	13	3	2	—	32	15	5	1
American Oystercatcher	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Greater Yellowlegs	—	2	1	5	—	—	—	2	7	8	15
Lesser Yellowlegs	—	3	—	20	—	—	—	9	32	17	8
Solitary Sandpiper	3	2	3	30	—	—	9	53	10	10	2
Willet	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Spotted Sandpiper	21	12	2	13	—	5	11	39	25	8	1
Upland Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—
Semipalmated Sandpiper	—	20	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—
Least Sandpiper	6	4	—	26	—	—	—	10	37	2	17
Pectoral Sandpiper	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dunlin	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Peep sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Short-billed Dowitcher	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Common Snipe	—	1	1	6	—	—	—	1	4	1	—
American Woodcock	1	—	1	—	—	—	3	4	7	1	—
Laughing Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	318	—	2
Bonaparte's Gull	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ring-billed Gull	27	30	—	26	—	164	—	—	2244	84	10
Herring Gull	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	73	100	1
Great Black-backed Gull	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	—	1
Caspian Tern	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Royal Tern	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Tern	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Forster's Tern	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	2	1	—
Least Tern	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—
Black Skimmer	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Rock Dove	39	169	101	68	8	215	69	321	299	33	1
Mourning Dove	32	81	60	145	13	29	144	439	147	64	—
Ringed Turtle-Dove	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black-billed Cuckoo	3	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Yellow-billed Cuckoo	—	3	2	3	1	—	6	1	1	—	—
Common Barn-Owl	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—	—
Eastern Screech-Owl	—	3	2	—	—	—	—	2	1	—	1
Great Horned Owl	—	—	2	1	—	—	2	1	—	2	—
Barred Owl	3	—	6	4	—	—	4	14	4	2	—
Common Nighthawk	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Chuck-will's-widow	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Whip-poor-will	—	4	2	—	—	—	—	1	16	—	—
Chimney Swift	2	175	121	81	5	31	90	175	123	33	12
Ruby-throated Hummingbird	7	8	4	2	—	—	5	12	6	1	—
Belted Kingfisher	1	4	11	10	1	2	8	20	13	1	—
Red-headed Woodpecker	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	1	1	—
Red-bellied Woodpecker	—	50	53	93	3	11	118	115	37	27	8
Yellow-bellied Sapsucker	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Downy Woodpecker	8	26	26	25	—	5	28	48	22	11	5
Hairy Woodpecker	5	12	9	4	1	1	10	6	4	2	1
Northern Flicker	3	42	33	50	1	12	37	76	47	25	4

Table 1. Statewide Count, May 4, 1985 (cont.)

PrGe	AnAr	Calv	Char	StMa	Kent	QuAn	Carn	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Some	Wore	Total	Cos.
—	—	—	—	—	2	—	1	1	2	—	—	—	7	5
—	—	—	—	—	25	2	4	19	107	—	—	—	160	7
3	3	2	—	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	5
1	18	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	23	5
1	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
—	—	—	—	—	6	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	9	3
1	—	—	—	—	9	—	—	—	35	22	—	—	71	6
5	8	—	9	2	2	4	16	7	5	7	2	1	178	21
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	2
43	—	12	1	21	18	34	12	9	57	6	—	—	253	17
7	8	—	5	17	15	27	8	7	103	30	—	—	316	16
2	4	—	3	1	4	—	—	3	2	18	—	—	156	16
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	50	2	—	1	54	4
13	21	2	11	10	7	2	8	5	6	5	2	—	208	21
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2
—	—	—	—	—	8	7	19	—	5	9	—	—	71	7
36	4	—	—	1	36	—	2	35	201	341	—	—	752	14
1	—	1	—	—	10	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	28	4
—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	440	18	—	—	460	3
—	—	—	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	1
1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	5	4
7	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	5	—	—	—	27	9
1	7	—	—	—	4	3	—	6	7	—	—	—	44	11
1	900	16	77	132	118	275	209	965	620	77	302	450	4462	15
—	—	—	1	3	19	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	23	3
70	116	22	296	3	918	453	146	176	172	—	—	20	4950	17
—	185	—	14	72	283	—	1	6	80	5	4	100	925	14
—	16	—	—	12	6	—	—	1	1	1	—	1	45	10
—	1	—	—	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	2
—	—	—	17	10	—	—	1	12	3	6	—	—	48	5
—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	150	—	6	—	163	3
—	—	—	—	3	—	3	—	21	71	55	—	2	161	9
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	10	—	—	—	15	2
40	210	—	66	—	90	26	62	50	80	36	—	39	1983	20
34	130	25	91	22	83	64	111	68	68	42	21	8	1889	22
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
2	1	1	1	—	7	2	8	—	5	1	—	—	45	16
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	7	3
1	—	—	—	—	6	3	2	8	4	1	—	—	34	12
5	3	—	6	—	8	2	6	31	10	—	—	—	79	13
5	—	—	15	1	6	3	5	13	5	—	—	—	87	14
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	7	3
—	4	—	—	1	28	3	—	7	15	1	—	—	64	9
5	8	—	10	1	18	2	12	6	3	1	—	—	89	14
37	40	9	37	5	108	17	66	105	47	33	8	4	1362	23
3	4	5	8	3	6	10	11	10	5	3	—	—	106	18
13	15	12	5	5	3	6	8	5	1	1	2	1	147	22
—	—	—	3	—	2	—	—	—	5	—	—	—	14	7
21	65	7	66	4	27	17	64	57	25	16	2	—	886	22
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
4	21	3	14	3	18	3	21	21	15	4	3	1	327	22
—	3	—	1	—	5	3	4	5	6	3	—	—	80	18
15	38	4	6	4	12	13	33	41	23	4	10	—	590	22

Table 1. Statewide Count, May 4, 1985 (cont.)

	Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Crll	D.C.	Mont	Howa	Balt	Harf	Ceci
Pileated Woodpecker	3	10	12	10	—	3	19	6	5	—	1
Eastern Wood-Pewee	—	—	1	2	—	—	3	4	2	1	—
Acadian Flycatcher	4	2	4	4	—	—	20	5	1	—	—
Willow Flycatcher	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Least Flycatcher	12	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Eastern Phoebe	8	79	34	23	—	2	17	39	30	14	1
Great Crested Flycatcher	22	9	46	8	1	1	39	9	11	5	1
Eastern Kingbird	5	20	15	27	3	6	26	76	48	15	3
Horned Lark	2	4	6	—	1	—	1	—	3	2	—
Purple Martin	8	—	52	12	2	—	17	56	34	5	2
Tree Swallow	49	76	50	80	—	87	40	64	106	17	100
Northern Rough-winged Swallow	9	46	60	47	4	29	22	53	68	10	20
Bank Swallow	—	17	14	6	—	5	—	1	9	—	40
Cliff Swallow	20	—	2	11	—	—	—	5	52	—	—
Barn Swallow	58	87	65	90	9	108	25	309	218	57	50
Blue Jay	55	116	67	51	8	26	131	186	130	58	15
American Crow	83	141	215	227	15	57	225	470	230	85	10
Fish Crow	—	4	18	21	1	7	16	9	12	4	8
Crow sp.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16	—	—
Common Raven	3	4	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Black-capped Chickadee	60	71	12	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carolina Chickadee	—	—	31	35	—	33	117	153	80	21	4
Tufted Titmouse	14	79	87	56	11	29	139	154	86	21	4
White-breasted Nuthatch	15	19	9	5	—	4	23	12	5	5	—
Brown-headed Nuthatch	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brown Creeper	4	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Carolina Wren	—	32	36	35	2	24	102	64	48	7	2
House Wren	26	51	39	84	8	8	176	85	67	21	5
Sedge Wren	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Marsh Wren	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	—	—
Golden-crowned Kinglet	8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ruby-crowned Kinglet	—	5	—	4	1	1	7	13	8	4	1
Blue-gray Gnatcatcher	22	81	75	74	6	4	155	129	38	11	—
Eastern Bluebird	7	29	38	46	1	—	155	144	56	33	1
Veery	14	1	4	2	—	9	5	13	17	1	—
Swainson's Thrush	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	3	—	—
Hermit Thrush	3	1	—	—	—	2	—	2	2	—	—
Wood Thrush	38	32	54	67	8	27	129	150	72	16	10
American Robin	151	532	212	191	19	45	128	724	318	82	24
Gray Catbird	88	71	27	118	11	32	230	356	158	67	6
Northern Mockingbird	—	36	45	78	3	14	59	197	64	36	10
Brown Thrasher	2	18	32	13	2	2	—	32	10	3	6
Water Pipit	—	1	—	8	8	1	—	38	—	1	—
Cedar Waxwing	21	116	175	232	48	55	152	113	254	86	30
Loggerhead Shrike	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
European Starling	150	275	372	390	71	420	320	1036	581	130	50
White-eyed Vireo	27	37	3	10	2	1	68	120	58	19	6
Solitary Vireo	7	—	—	1	—	—	—	3	2	—	—
Yellow-throated Vireo	1	4	1	2	—	1	13	13	8	1	—
Warbling Vireo	—	5	39	17	—	4	18	4	1	1	—
Red-eyed Vireo	38	39	13	13	6	19	109	113	55	11	10
Blue-winged Warbler	—	1	2	3	3	7	14	48	25	2	3
Golden-winged Warbler	33	10	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Brewster's hybrid	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tennessee Warbler	5	1	2	—	2	1	5	3	—	—	—

Table 1. Statewide Count, May 4, 1985 (cont.)

PrGe	AnAr	Calv	Char	StMa	Kent	QuAn	Carn	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Some	Worc	Total	Cos.
7	4	—	6	1	1	—	11	4	8	2	—	—	110	17
1	4	—	2	1	2	—	5	3	6	1	—	—	38	15
1	1	—	12	—	2	2	6	2	—	—	—	—	62	13
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	3
5	8	3	15	—	7	3	18	12	1	5	—	1	317	20
1	6	—	3	—	13	4	44	20	28	11	1	1	262	21
24	26	—	41	31	33	29	43	42	54	10	16	4	592	22
—	—	—	—	—	7	1	17	12	7	16	—	—	77	12
26	18	55	51	12	65	40	128	63	76	47	34	4	799	21
5432	89	1537	209	31	175	25	148	172	198	44	18	—	8696	21
10	12	—	12	—	30	3	17	4	2	1	—	4	454	20
39	112	49	—	—	72	1	8	2	7	—	—	—	382	15
1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	72	6
584	259	36	181	67	155	95	279	139	271	85	27	10	3206	23
36	196	15	33	1	38	41	144	65	25	41	7	6	1436	23
30	267	17	147	20	69	58	200	88	43	45	22	10	2691	23
15	41	6	23	3	32	20	33	125	27	14	3	—	442	22
—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	18	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	83	2
17	113	8	79	16	47	51	104	52	20	38	16	—	1035	20
12	93	5	87	2	35	9	117	38	11	30	7	—	1112	22
1	9	—	11	—	3	—	—	2	1	—	—	—	109	14
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	8	2	—	—	12	3
—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	7	4
8	45	8	57	9	26	24	47	41	31	22	15	1	686	23
9	45	—	1	—	42	18	15	6	19	17	20	—	736	20
—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2
20	9	2	—	4	13	6	2	7	61	1	8	—	145	13
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	1
3	11	—	5	—	8	3	—	1	—	—	—	—	75	15
12	34	1	34	—	29	8	7	19	3	1	1	—	722	20
154	12	10	54	19	13	7	117	41	33	13	35	1	1012	22
—	—	—	1	—	1	—	2	1	—	—	—	—	57	12
2	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11	5
—	—	—	—	—	5	2	—	2	—	—	—	—	16	7
35	116	3	44	8	68	26	73	109	21	16	2	—	1086	22
78	251	45	104	21	744	197	351	205	173	159	34	34	4671	23
35	143	5	43	26	110	50	61	59	43	26	8	—	1685	22
17	75	21	47	17	86	43	105	50	39	29	14	15	1100	23
5	19	2	13	3	18	3	50	17	7	4	5	—	271	21
—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	40	—	—	—	—	96	8
20	80	2	103	16	72	—	72	78	—	19	—	—	1723	19
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	2
93	402	39	125	16	398	118	1196	352	365	186	25	55	7015	23
33	50	5	41	15	30	15	47	30	21	31	17	—	654	22
—	5	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	15	6
5	4	—	7	—	9	1	3	1	1	—	—	—	74	16
5	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	97	10
25	91	23	112	18	58	12	92	77	12	19	18	—	945	22
5	22	—	9	1	18	—	9	25	5	—	—	—	202	18
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	45	3
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
2	—	—	3	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	25	10

Table 1. Statewide Count, May 4, 1985 (cont.)

	Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Crll	D.C.	Mont	Iowa	Balt	Harf	Ceci
Nashville Warbler	2	2	1	1	1	2	~	1	2	—	—
Northern Parula	4	3	5	12	2	7	77	58	35	6	2
Yellow Warbler	48	74	17	28	3	3	15	89	47	22	2
Chestnut-sided Warbler	131	3	1	—	2	3	8	11	8	1	—
Magnolia Warbler	23	5	—	1	—	1	6	12	8	2	—
Cape May Warbler	—	1	1	1	—	1	1	3	—	—	—
Black-throated Blue Warbler	45	—	—	—	—	7	19	16	6	1	1
Yellow-rumped Warbler	4	81	99	77	53	87	302	741	394	110	16
Black-throated Green Warbler	17	—	1	1	1	7	10	16	9	2	2
Blackburnian Warbler	9	2	1	—	—	—	2	1	1	—	—
Yellow-throated Warbler	—	5	2	2	—	—	10	21	2	1	—
Pine Warbler	—	9	2	1	2	—	5	1	3	—	—
Prairie Warbler	2	20	7	1	3	—	30	33	26	4	1
Palm Warbler	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	3	3	—	—
Bay-breasted Warbler	3	—	—	1	1	2	—	1	1	1	—
Blackpoll Warbler	—	1	—	—	4	1	—	1	—	—	2
Cerulean Warbler	1	6	—	—	—	3	11	—	4	—	—
Black-and-white Warbler	31	3	4	5	4	16	35	60	37	7	1
American Redstart	48	3	8	6	—	1	28	34	20	2	—
Prothonotary Warbler	—	1	13	4	1	2	10	1	2	1	—
Worm-eating Warbler	1	8	5	4	1	2	2	6	6	—	—
Ovenbird	55	1	5	10	5	11	25	106	39	6	1
Northern Waterthrush	7	8	5	—	—	5	7	7	10	1	—
Louisiana Waterthrush	3	4	4	14	1	2	21	19	3	2	—
Kentucky Warbler	4	—	—	6	2	3	9	20	7	1	—
Common Yellowthroat	98	61	12	35	6	5	143	216	107	19	8
Hooded Warbler	38	—	—	—	4	2	2	14	2	—	—
Wilson's Warbler	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Canada Warbler	20	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—
Yellow-breasted Chat	1	13	2	2	—	—	22	11	2	1	—
Summer Tanager	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
Scarlet Tanager	40	24	5	9	2	15	34	22	27	—	1
Northern Cardinal	38	181	221	190	15	76	323	414	198	81	10
Rose-breasted Grosbeak	101	6	6	5	—	5	16	6	4	2	2
Blue Grosbeak	—	—	3	—	—	—	1	1	1	—	—
Indigo Bunting	95	46	6	1	4	5	29	17	17	6	—
Rufous-sided Towhee	96	114	40	45	7	12	94	116	79	17	10
Chipping Sparrow	82	166	60	26	4	2	18	147	63	23	6
Field Sparrow	46	49	44	29	7	1	46	52	37	12	8
Vesper Sparrow	1	—	6	—	—	—	—	6	3	—	—
Savannah Sparrow	12	5	2	—	—	5	3	33	29	4	—
Grasshopper Sparrow	—	1	21	3	2	—	1	35	6	2	—
Henslow's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Sharp-tailed Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Seaside Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Song Sparrow	76	149	83	157	6	59	94	210	149	22	10
Lincoln's Sparrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Swamp Sparrow	29	8	11	2	1	—	16	10	25	11	2
White-throated Sparrow	—	21	93	105	75	29	217	228	160	53	6
White-crowned Sparrow	—	8	10	19	—	—	4	14	—	4	—
Dark-eyed Junco	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bobolink	62	4	—	29	—	—	—	558	90	50	—
Red-winged Blackbird	164	238	125	249	2	11	122	769	390	95	150
Eastern Meadowlark	40	28	25	36	7	—	4	59	22	8	4
Rusty Blackbird	—	3	—	—	—	1	3	—	—	12	—

Table 1. Statewide Count, May 4, 1985 (cont.)

PrGe	AnAr	Calv	Char	StMa	Kent	QuAn	Carn	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Some	Worc	Total	Cos.
1	2	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	15	11
28	60	5	82	—	31	2	7	22	16	3	—	—	463	20
22	26	1	18	2	55	25	7	18	35	3	16	—	528	22
2	9	1	1	—	13	1	—	6	1	—	—	—	71	16
1	—	—	2	—	5	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	44	11
1	—	—	2	—	7	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	22	10
4	14	1	5	—	1	2	7	13	3	—	—	—	100	15
199	316	20	203	13	677	55	149	160	74	45	1	1	3873	23
1	12	—	2	—	8	—	—	2	3	—	—	—	77	15
1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	7
1	3	1	—	—	2	—	—	2	—	—	—	—	52	12
1	5	—	8	6	5	9	13	33	56	24	3	—	186	18
15	32	1	21	17	6	1	10	11	10	26	3	—	278	21
2	—	—	8	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	22	6
1	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	9	8
1	—	—	2	—	3	1	4	2	3	—	—	—	25	12
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	26	6
7	46	1	33	3	36	15	49	39	22	15	—	—	438	21
9	5	3	5	—	11	3	3	4	3	—	—	—	148	17
3	6	—	7	—	10	4	20	2	6	3	—	—	96	18
—	5	—	—	—	6	—	3	8	—	3	—	—	59	13
17	56	4	43	11	27	4	62	55	17	16	1	1	523	23
3	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49	9
2	4	1	13	—	3	—	8	11	—	—	—	—	112	16
1	6	—	14	—	3	2	21	15	—	—	—	—	110	14
37	91	13	41	13	77	53	67	50	87	35	23	1	1200	23
7	21	1	31	1	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	88	11
—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6	1	—	—	—	—	2	2
1	5	—	—	—	16	—	5	3	9	2	—	—	16	6
6	5	2	10	—	16	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	111	16
—	1	—	2	1	2	—	7	10	13	—	1	—	39	9
5	48	1	29	1	18	—	39	53	11	1	—	—	345	19
44	258	50	133	16	110	194	108	58	48	1	2942	23	—	—
1	4	—	9	—	2	3	3	11	6	—	—	—	91	17
5	5	1	8	4	8	3	34	10	8	2	—	—	94	15
8	6	3	43	3	7	1	15	20	9	5	1	—	252	21
39	61	10	27	6	35	42	65	38	20	14	3	—	894	22
28	49	10	69	7	75	23	124	72	26	26	27	3	1054	23
9	44	2	29	10	82	24	34	6	7	6	1	—	539	22
—	1	—	—	—	3	—	6	2	—	—	—	—	27	7
14	13	—	—	3	4	4	23	54	22	—	—	—	218	15
4	2	—	5	—	10	12	6	—	—	—	—	—	110	14
—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	6	—	—	—	6	1
—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	4	—	—	—	5	2
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	70	—	2	—	75	3
16	64	13	23	5	67	40	18	20	12	17	5	4	1243	23
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
19	23	1	9	5	14	4	4	8	2	—	—	—	175	19
24	132	2	27	76	75	54	66	43	41	3	1	2	1533	23
—	—	—	1	—	4	1	—	2	—	—	—	—	67	10
—	—	—	—	—	2	—	6	40	—	—	—	—	49	4
1	1	—	30	—	6	—	214	6	1	—	—	—	990	12
2538	238	1013	238	51	550	289	460	492	610	130	217	35	9012	23
4	5	2	8	4	27	11	20	30	45	1	1	1	352	22
—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—	193	—	—	—	—	214	6

Table 1. (cont.) Statewide Count, May 4, 1985

	Garr	Alle	Wash	Fred	Crll	D.C.	Mont	Howa	Balt	Harf	Ceci
Boat-tailed Grackle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Common Grackle	86	362	595	530	43	40	252	814	364	95	50
Brown-headed Cowbird	30	105	113	79	5	11	93	185	55	34	20
Orchard Oriole	—	4	5	3	2	6	11	12	3	—	3
Northern Oriole	21	46	84	48	5	9	28	37	32	5	1
Purple Finch	6	—	7	1	—	—	—	6	4	—	—
House Finch	9	151	63	47	—	39	89	174	63	33	6
American Goldfinch	108	197	313	241	16	14	328	454	392	83	10
House Sparrow	19	214	148	268	27	290	62	321	280	52	10
Total Species	115	138	131	124	79	102	115	138	159	120	84
Total Individuals	3071	5469	4911	5419	639	2496	6160	13251	10284	2385	895
Party-hours: Owling	2	2	3	2	—	0.5	—	4.5	1.5	1	0.5
Foot	19	63	23	50	10	14	—	138	68	20	5
Car	14	34	15	13	2.5	1	—	37	11	21	3.5
Bicycle	—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boat/Canoe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	—
Feeder	1	16	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—	—
Total	36	115	47	65	12.5	15.5	—	187	82.5	42	9
Party-Miles: Owling	10	10	5	12	—	—	—	10	0.5	1	—
Foot	17	55	20	34	15.5	16	—	134	54	17	5
Car	201	310	174	222	50	8	—	584	125	199	60
Bicycle	—	—	15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Boat/Canoe	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8	—	—
Total	228	375	214	268	65.5	24	—	728	187	217	65
Starting Time	—	0230	0430	0500	0700	0500	—	0300	0500	0530	0430
Ending Time	—	1930	2000	2115	1600	2000	—	2030	2105	2000	1330
Total Observers	12	29	14	19	4	1	36	51	25	21	1
Number of Parties ²	5	(14)	6	(8)	2	1	(18)	23	11	5	1
Maximum Temperature	—	70	68	70	—	70	—	70's	75	70	—
Minimum Temperature	—	32	35	35	—	48	—	40's	27	60	—
Sky in Morning	—	CLR	CLR	PCL	—	CLR	—	FOG	CLR	CLR	—
Sky in Afternoon	—	PCL	PCL	PCL	—	CLR	—	CLR	CLR	CLR	—
Precipitation	—	NON	NON	NON	—	NON	—	NON	NON	NON	NON
Wind	—	N 10	10	LTVR	—	LTVR	—	LT	CALM	LT	—

¹The Garrett County count was not performed on 5/4/85. Although the Garrett Observations are included in this table, these observations are not included in the total columns.

²Number of parties presented in parentheses were estimated based on the state average of 8 party-hours per party.

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Table 1. Statewide Count, May 4, 1985 (cont.)

PrGe	AnAr	Calv	Char	StMa	Kent	QuAn	Carn	Talb	Dorc	Wico	Some	Worc	Total	Cos.
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	13	8	—	—	21	2
65	207	143	274	27	643	636	1560	480	740	273	351	60	8604	23
15	113	22	56	12	159	36	246	178	80	24	4	27	1672	23
6	11	5	20	—	38	9	73	64	46	7	19	3	350	21
1	2	—	11	—	34	3	16	21	4	1	—	—	388	19
—	—	—	—	1	—	—	3	1	—	—	—	—	23	7
59	45	11	8	—	78	14	51	5	—	3	—	2	941	19
22	168	23	51	26	68	56	109	134	25	5	13	4	2752	23
2	145	30	67	20	119	31	314	144	52	63	12	6	2677	23
143	137	84	122	92	165	117	127	148	158	106	74	51	225	
10961	7252	3525	5022	1182	8927	3856	9116	6945	7148	2700	1621	1048	121211	
1	0.5	—	5	—	7.5	4.5	4	5	5	—	0.5	—	48	
27.5	55	14.5	28.5	12	10.5	9	64	33	14	22.5	7.5	1	690	
6	36	1	23	6	30.5	21	35.5	16	17	8	4	4	346	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	7	
10	2	6.5	—	—	—	—	5.5	—	—	—	—	—	26	
—	—	6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	30	
44.5	93.5	28	56.5	18	48.5	34.5	110	54	36	30.5	12	5	1147	
2	2	—	60	—	—	45	4.5	74	—	—	3	—	229	
17	28	—	22	8	10	11.5	27.5	21	11	10.5	6	0.5	523.5	
42	113	—	235	86	305	192	315	316	339	105	59	70	3909	
—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	—	—	—	—	—	18	
45	3.5	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	—	—	—	—	63.5	
106	147	36.5	317	94	315	248	357	411	350	115	68	70.5	4780	
0500	0515	—	530	0530	100	—	0000	—	0000	0645	0545	0700	0000	
2030	1800	—	1930	2000	1900	—	2300	—	2100	1700	1800	1730	2300	
13	12	5	11	6	11	7	28	10	5	9	5	1	324	
7	(12)	3	7	3	4	4	(14)	6	(4)	(4)	1	1	(159)	
72	78	72	78	75	71	—	75	65	75	68	74	—	78	
38	38	35	45	42	43	—	35	45	45	42	42	—	27	
CLR	CLR	—	CLR	CLR	CLR	—	CLR	PCL	PCL	CLR	CLR	CLR	CLR CLEAR	
PCL	PCL	—	PCL	CLR	CLR	—	PCL	PCL	PCL	CLR	CLR	CLR	—PTCLDY	
NON	NON	—	NON	NON	NON	—	NON	NON	NON	NON	NON	NON	NON NONE	
NW	10	5	5	10	CALM	0-15	—	10	10	LTVR	CALM	10	CALM LT&VAR	

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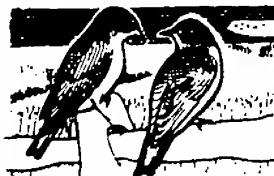
BOOK REVIEW

THE COMPLETE OUTFITTING & SOURCE BOOK FOR BIRD WATCHING

Michael Scofield 1978. The Great Outdoors Trading Company, 24759 Shoreline Highway Marshall, CA 94940. \$6.95 paper, \$12.95 hardcover.

I was once naive enough to think that all you needed for birdwatching was a passable pair of binoculars and Robbins' Field Guide to Birds of North America. I'm not convinced that's still not true. However, we live in an age of overproduction and we birdwatchers won't be allowed to escape, no matter how simple and straightforward we'd like that all-consuming passion of ours to remain. For a while I ignored this book. After all, one of the benefits of belonging to MOS is the opportunity to share sources and tips on the best equipment and the hottest birding spots. Leafing through "The Complete..." reveals that is is a well organized book, with lots of pertinent information on equipment, accessories, books, clubs, sites, tours, even a glossary. By far the most interesting chapter to me is the History. To know that Aristotle himself had a life list of 155 birds, that Columbus' interest in birds was second only to his interest in gold, that Alexander Wilson came to America to become one of our first outstanding ornithologists after a career in Scotland writing satirical poetry, and to have the contributions of the great birdwatchers surveyed in one all-inclusive chapter, puts our own interest in its proper perspective. Having Chandler Robbins' picture right there with Roger Tory Peterson is a bonus for us Marylanders. However, I don't think I'd ever buy this book. If I wanted to know more about birdwatching I'd join the MOS.

Joy Wheeler



THE SEASON

Winter Season, December 1, 1984-February 28, 1985

ROBERT F. RINGLER

This season was marked by unusually mild weather in December and February with more typical severe cold during parts of January. Temperature records were set in Baltimore on December 29 (80 degrees for the Christmas count) and February 24 (84 degrees for a record for all of February). Precipitation was substantially below normal and the semi-hardy wintering species were not adversely affected. Christmas counting in this weather proved to be rather dull on most counts as there was little bird activity. Most northern species that we come to expect in winter did not make the scene this year, notably finches, nuthatches and chickadees.

In Garrett County, where winter bird life takes on a totally different perspective from the rest of the state, it becomes easier to detect the limits of migration of some species that may be present the entire season elsewhere. Connie Skipper reports that the last patch of open water on Deep Creek Lake froze over on Jan. 16 when there were still 5 American Black Ducks, 100 Mallards and 6 drake Redheads left on the lake. The final departures for other species from there were 3 Pied-billed Grebes, 4 Tundra Swans and 7 Lesser Scaup on Dec. 29 and 19 Canada Geese, 11 Ring-necked Ducks, 1 Bufflehead and a Ruddy Duck on Jan. 9. There were no additional waterfowl sightings in Garrett until March. Such phenomena as lakes freezing over north and northwest of Maryland in mid-winter are responsible for the arrival in other parts of the state of sizable numbers of waterfowl well after the expected migration period.

Abbreviations used in the text: CBC = Christmas Bird Count, DC = District of Columbia, NWR = National Wildlife Refuge, WMA = Wildlife Management Area.

OBSERVERS:

Garrett County—Danny Bystrak, Connie Skipper. Allegany—Teresa Simons. Frederick—David Wallace. Baltimore—Steve Simon, Jim Wilkinson. Harford—Rick Blom, Dennis Kirkwood, Bob Schutsky. Montgomery—Larry Bonham, John, Michael and Paul O'Brien, Robert W. Warfield. DC—Dave Czaplak. Prince Georges—Wally Sumner. Anne Arundel—Alex & Helene Hammer, Wayne Klockner. St. Marys—Ron Runkles, Erika Wilson. Kent—Jim & Patricia Gruber. Caroline—Ethel Engle, Jerry & Roberta Fletcher, Inez Glime, Marvin Hewitt, Alicia Knotts, Mariana Nuttle, Wilbur Rittenhouse, W. Schmick, Carol Scudder, Steve Westre.

Loons, Grebes, Gannets. The only Red-throated Loons were 1 in Cuckold Creek in St. Marys County on Dec. 20 (Runkles) and 1 in the Potomac River off the National Colonial Farm on Jan. 13 (Hammer +). Common Loons are scarce in mid-winter; inland reports were 6 at Seneca on Dec. 20 with 1 or 2 there afterward.

(Warfield), and 1 seen on Loch Raven on Jan. 16 and 25 with 2 there on the 27th (Simon). The season's only pelagic trip out of Ocean City produced 2 Red-throated Loons, 11 unidentified loons and 250 Northern Gannets (Ron Naveen +). Michael O'Brien estimated 50 gannets in sight from shore at Ocean City on Jan. 5. Steve Simon's count of 13 Pied-billed Grebes on Loch Raven on Jan. 6 was very good for that date and another on Druid Lake on Feb. 7 (Wilkinson) was also unusual. Horned Grebes were little-mentioned in reports but there were 35 off Hains Point on Jan. 4 (Bonham) and 5 in Curtis Bay in Baltimore on Jan. 26 (Wilkinson). The only Red-necked Grebe reported was 1 in the Potomac off the Naval Research Lab on Jan. 2-24 (Czaplak). The outstanding find of the season was made on Loch Raven on Dec. 16 by Paul Noell who discovered a Western Grebe that was seen and photographed by many observers at least through Jan. 6.

Cormorants, Herons, Ibis. The only Great Cormorant noted was at Ocean City on Dec. 1 (Charlie Swift +). Single Double-crested Cormorants were seen at Denton on Dec. 11 and 13 (Hewitt) and in St. Marys County on Dec. 17 (Wilson). High counts of Great Blue Herons were 151 at Conowingo on Dec. 5 (Schutsky) and 28 in Baltimore on Dec. 22 (Ringler). Wilkinson spotted a late migrant Great Egret at Crofton on Dec. 3 and an immature Snowy Egret in south Baltimore on Dec. 2; however the Great Egret at Rock Hall on Feb. 13 (Gruber) does not fit any migration pattern and may have wintered locally. High counts of Black-crowned Night-Herons were 34 at Masonville on Dec. 22 (Ringler), 20 at Cox Creek in Anne Arundel County on Christmas Day (Hammer), 12 in DC on Jan. 19 (Czaplak) and 20-21 throughout the period at Conowingo (Schutsky). Polly Batchelder and a field trip of the Wicomico chapter found 6 Glossy Ibis at Deal Island WMA on Dec. 1, and 11 were seen there the next day (Swift +). Another was seen on Piscataway Creek on the latter date (Nistico).

Swans, Geese. Wilkinson found 5 Tundra Swans along New Design Road in southern Frederick County on Dec. 24 and on Jan. 5 Warfield saw 5 not far from there at Noland's Ferry. Wilson counted 316 in St. Marys County on Jan. 24. A Mute Swan was on Sinepuxent Bay on Feb. 10 (Hammers) and 3 at Seneca on Feb. 16 (Bonham). There was an interesting assortment of Greater White-fronted Geese including the familiar bird in Harford County near Creswell which appeared (rather belatedly this season on Feb. 28) for the fifth consecutive year and brought 1 hybrid with it (Kirkwood +). Another at Blackwater NWR on Dec. 2 (Jane Arnold) was also at a familiar location. Nistico found 3 White-fronts (an adult and 2 immatures) at the National Colonial Farm on Dec. 30 with 1 remaining through Jan. 12 and possibly the same bird being seen the next day at the nearby Alice Ferguson Farm (Hammers, Wilkinson). Another White-front was seen in Kent County on Jan. 23 (Carol Baldwin). Jim Gruber reports that 2 Greylag Geese were shot from a flock of 7 on Jan. 20 at the Conquest Farm in Queen Annes County by a surprised hunter. Though these are most likely escaped farm birds it is hoped that the identification could be confirmed by a photo or partial specimen. Matthew Perry's aerial Snow Goose survey for the Fish & Wildlife Service found 3500 in the Ruthsburg area and 8000 in the Sudlersville area of Queen Annes County on Feb. 15. On Feb. 20 he estimated 18,000 near Barclay, 150 at Ruthsburg, 650 on the Corsica River, 2500 at Sudlersville, and 150 at Price, all in Queen Annes County, plus 100 at Snow Hill and 35 at Berlin in Worcester County; making a total of 21,585 in Maryland for the day. These counts were done on the leading edge of the spring migration season for geese and may reflect some early movement. Wilkinson estimated 3000 in the area 5-10 miles west of Ocean City on Feb. 9. An adult Snow Goose stayed in Harford County near Madonna from mid-January to

mid-February (Kirkwood). At Gaithersburg 2 were seen on Jan. 29 (Bonham) and 1 on Feb. 14 (Warfield). An adult Ross' Goose was seen at Blackwater NWR, Dec. 29-31 (Paul O'Brien +), for the second report in the state; the other being there 3 years before. A Barnacle Goose appeared with a flock of Canada Geese in the valley of Deer Creek in Harford County on Feb. 24 and remained into the spring (Kirkwood +). Warfield noted Canadas still migrating on Dec. 20 with 60 over Seneca. Wintering flocks in the Piedmont included 1350 seen in Montgomery County on Jan. 24 with 500 of them at the National Geographic Society ponds, 700 at the National Bureau of Standards, and 150 at Seneca (Warfield). There were 1200 at Rockville on Feb. 2 (M. O'Brien), and 550 at Loch Raven on Jan. 30 (Simon). A Canada Goose of the small race *hutchinsii* was seen at Piney Run on Dec. 16 and Jan. 1 (Ringler).

Puddle Ducks. The 2 Wood Ducks at Loch Raven on December 22 (Wilkinson) may have been late migrants; 3 at Pinto Marsh on Feb. 25 (Simons) were certainly early spring birds. The wintering flock at Druid Lake numbered about 85 on Jan. 25 (Ringler). Rare in mid-winter were 2 Green-winged Teal at Cumberland on Jan. 25, keeping company with 400 Mallards (Simons). At the Easton sewage lagoons on Jan. 6 were 50 Green-wings and 7 Northern Shovelers (Ringler). High winter counts at Loch Raven included 79 American Black Ducks on Jan. 27 and 400 Mallards on Feb. 10 (Simon); Czaplak estimated 700 Mallards in DC on Jan. 21. A female Northern Pintail at Druid Lake on Feb. 7 (Wilkinson) may have been an early migrant, which was almost certainly the case for the 22 at Blackwater NWR on Feb. 17 (Wilson). Wilkinson also found 18 Gadwalls in Baltimore harbor on Feb. 10.

Diving Ducks. Wilson found 597 Canvasbacks wintering in St. Marys County on Jan. 24; flocks staging for northward migration in February were 1500 in Baltimore harbor on the 17th (Ringler), 2000 in Prospect Bay on the 23rd (Grubers), and 450 in Blackwalnut Cove on the 24th (Ringler +). Wintering Redheads were 8 at Loch Raven on Jan. 24 (Simon), 7 in Baltimore harbor on Jan. 26 (Wilkinson), and 1 at Conowingo on Jan. 27 (M. O'Brien). Early migrant Redheads began with the first on Feb. 14 at Gaithersburg (Bonham) where there were 9 on Feb. 23 (M. O'Brien); 2 were at St. Michaels on Feb. 17 (Wilson), 2 at Denton on Feb. 20 (Hewitt) and 10 at Constitution Gardens in DC on Feb. 26 (Czaplak). The high count of Ring-necked Ducks was 230 at Georgetown Reservoir on Jan. 9 (Czaplak), and an early migrant was at Pinto on Feb. 25 (Simons). Reports of Greater Scaup were 11 on the Potomac in DC on Jan. 28 (Czaplak) and 1000 on the Chester River on Feb. 21 (Gruber). Estimates of Lesser Scaup were 2500 in Baltimore harbor on Feb. 17 (Ringler), 8000 on the Chester and Corsica Rivers on Feb. 21 (Gruber) and 95 on the Oxford sewage lagoons on Feb. 24 (Ringler). At Ocean City 4 King Eiders were seen from Dec. 27 through Feb. 18 with 1 remaining through Mar. 3 (M. O'Brien +). The only Harlequin Ducks reported were 7 at Ocean City on Dec. 31 (M. O'Brien). A mixture of late migrant and wintering Oldsquaws were seen in December, with 3 at Port Deposit on the 5th (Schutsky), 18 at Piney Run on the 16th (Ringler +), 334 in St. Marys County on the 17th (Wilson), 1 at the Cunningham Falls lake west of Thurmont on the 23rd (D. Wallace), and 32 in the Potomac off the Naval Research Lab on the 31st (Czaplak). The only Black Scoters reported were 2 in St. Marys County on Dec. 17 (Wilson). Notable records of White-winged Scoters were a drake at Piney Run on Dec. 8 (Hammers), 4 birds there on the 16th (Ringler +), a drake at Leading Point in Baltimore on Jan. 26 (Wilkinson), and 2 on the Potomac in DC on Jan. 28 (Czaplak). Wilson also found 159 Common Goldeneyes and 126 Buffleheads wintering in St. Marys County on Jan. 24; migrants were 5 goldeneyes and a Bufflehead at Cumberland on Feb. 12 (Simons) and 12,000 goldeneyes on the

Chester River on Feb. 21 (Gruber). High counts of wintering **Hooded Mergansers** were 23 at Loch Raven on Dec. 26 (Simon) and 10 at Conowingo on Jan. 27 (M. O'Brien). Steve Simon saw 34 **Common Mergansers** on Loch Raven on Jan. 23, and his last bird was on the 27th before the freeze-out. Returning birds appeared with the first open water, 8 on Feb. 17. Also on the 17th were 22 at Blackwater NWR (Wilson) and 75 at Masonville (Ringler). Also wintering were 400 **Common Mergansers** at Conowingo on Jan. 27 (M. O'Brien); perhaps the earliest migrants were 2 at Cumberland on Feb. 12 (Simons). The only report of **Red-breasted Mergansers** was 15 at Rock Hall on Feb. 21 (Gruber). There were 150 **Ruddy Ducks** off Marsh Point in St. Marys County on Dec. 11 (Runkles).

Diurnal Raptors. The first migrant **Turkey Vultures** were seen on Feb. 24 with 1 at Rocky Gap in Allegany County (Simons) and 4 over Savage Mountain (Bystrak). The top **Bald Eagle** area for the season was the lower Susquehanna River, where Schutsky counted 23 different birds (7 adults and 16 immatures) on Dec. 5. Other observations were an adult in DC from Nov. 5 through Feb. 13 and an immature over the Potomac near Blue Plains on Jan. 22 (Czaplak), an adult in Baltimore harbor on Dec. 29 (Ringler +), an adult at Point Lookout on Feb. 3 (M. O'Brien), 2 at Tuckahoe S. P. on Feb. 16 (Rittenhouse) and 1 at Loch Raven on Feb. 21 (Simon). Westre and Rittenhouse counted 21 **Northern Harriers** in the Greensboro area on Jan. 1, and in Allegany County Simons saw early migrants on Feb. 12 at Cumberland and on the 16th at North Branch. An adult **Red-shouldered Hawk** was displaying at Remington Farms on Feb. 23 (Ringler +). Single **Rough-legged Hawks** were reported as follows: at Greensboro on Dec. 22 and Jan. 19 (Westre, Rittenhouse), in the Jug Bay/Merkle WMA area from Dec. 26 through the winter and at Patuxent Naval Air Station on Jan. 12 (Gregoire), a light-phase bird along New Design Road in Frederick County on Dec. 28 (Wilkinson), and at Pinto Marsh, Feb. 10-23 (Simons). Schutsky observed an immature **Golden Eagle** at Conowingo through Dec. 29 and at Blackwater NWR 3 (2 adults and an immature) were seen on Jan. 5 (M. O'Brien). Kathy Trevor saw a **Harris' Hawk** in Talbot County on Dec. 28, certainly a bird escaped from captivity. The only **Merlin** report was 1 at Denton on Dec. 12 (Hewitt).

Shorebirds. A **Black-bellied Plover** at Point Lookout on Dec. 30 (Nistico) was extremely late for the bay. **American Oystercatcher** numbers at Ocean City were 29 on Jan. 5 (M. O'Brien), 6 on Feb. 9 (Hammers +), and 2 on Feb. 17 (David Wright). This species started wintering regularly in Maryland only about 10 years ago. A **Greater Yellowlegs** was at Blackwater on Jan. 6 (Ringler) and a **Lesser Yellowlegs** at Lilypons on Jan. 9 (M. O'Brien). O'Brien also found a **Least Sandpiper** at Bestpitch in Dorchester County on Dec. 27. Unusual reports of **Dunlin** were 1 at Leading Point in Baltimore on Dec. 22 (Ringler) and birds at Conowingo with 3 on Jan. 25 (Klockner), 2 on the 27th (M. O'Brien), and 1 on Feb. 6 (Blom, Schutsky). More expected was the flock of 400 at Blackwater on Jan. 6 (Ringler). The first winter record of **Ruff** in Maryland was a female seen near Blackwater NWR on Jan. 6 by Floyd Hayes and Armas Hill, and the next day by Helen and John Ford. Wintering **Common Snipe** included 2 at Tanyard on Jan. 7 and 21 (Engle) and 3 at Lilypons on Jan. 24 (Bonham) with at least 1 through Feb. 16 (David Wright).

Gulls, Terns, Alcids. The only **Little Gull** reported was an adult at Ocean City on Feb. 24 (Klockner, Wierenga). Five **Bonaparte's Gulls** lingered at the Naval Research Lab in DC on Dec. 18 (Czaplak); the high count for the season was 180 at Ocean City on Feb. 24 (Bonham). The peak for **Ring-billed Gulls** at Conowingo was 12,000 on Jan. 16 (Schutsky) and inland there were 275 at Piney Run in Carroll

County on Feb. 17 (Ringler). The first migrant Ring-bills noted in western Maryland were 2 at Cumberland on Feb. 12 (Simons) and 3 over Savage Mountain on Feb. 24 (Bystrak). The high for Herring Gulls at Conowingo was 14,000 on Feb. 6 (Schutsky, Blom). These observers also saw a first-winter Thayer's Gull there on Jan. 19 and Feb. 6, a first-winter Iceland Gull on Jan. 19, a second-winter bird there from Jan. 27 through Feb. 6, and a first-winter Glaucous Gull on Feb. 5, and 2 in that plumage the next day. Uncommon inland were Great Black-backed Gulls, with 1 on the Potomac River near Lander on Dec. 13 (Warfield), the first for Frederick County, 1 at Liberty Reservoir on Dec. 16 (Ringler +), and 5 on Loch Raven on Jan. 6 (Simon). An adult Black-legged Kittiwake was seen from shore at Ocean City on Dec. 27 by Mike O'Brien who also noted 8 Forster's Terns there the same day. The tally for a pelagic trip out of Ocean City on Feb. 23 was 7 Bonaparte's Gulls, 2240 Herring Gulls, 68 Great Black-backs, 41 kittiwakes, 156 Dovekies, 2 Razorbills, 2 unidentified large alcids and about 4-12 Atlantic Puffins (Naveen +).

Lesser Black-backed Gull. Lesser Black-backed Gulls were again the most conspicuous of the rare gulls, with some familiar adult birds returning, such as 1 at Fort McHenry through the season for its seventh winter, 2 birds seen there on Jan. 26 and Feb. 10 (Wilkinson), 1 in DC seen on Feb. 23 at Georgetown Reservoir by Czaplak who also saw a second-winter plumaged bird on Jan. 18 in Washington Channel, and 1 near Berlin on Feb. 10 (Hammers). The latter bird may have been the same one seen at Ocean City on Feb. 4 (Gregoire). Others were at Liberty Reservoir on Dec. 16 and Druid Lake on Feb. 17 (Ringler +). By far the greatest abundance of Lesser Black-backs seen in the state occurred at Conowingo, where numerous birds were reported from Jan. 19 through Feb. 18, reaching a peak of 10 individuals on Feb. 6 (Schutsky, Blom). Numbered among this group were 5 adults, 1 third-winter bird and 4 first-winter birds. Blom contributes the following notes on the identification of first-winter Lesser Black-backs: "Like first-winter Herrings Gulls but with mostly white head and underparts with little dusky streaking below and that generally confined to the belly and the sides of the breast. The bill entirely black. Second-winter Herring Gulls, which can be mostly white below show a pale-based bill. Lesser Black-backs are usually slightly smaller and slimmer than a Herring Gull, and usually showing less brown, more black-and-white pattern to the upperparts than Herring Gull, though not quite as contrasting as the obviously larger and bigger-billed Great Black-backs. In flight the pattern of the tail and the wings were diagnostic. Lessers show a pale, almost unmarked rump contrasting strongly with an almost entirely blackish tail. Herring Gulls show a brown rump not contrasting with the tail. The wings of Lessers are darker than Herrings', not showing pale inner primaries and showing a distinct second dark bar on the upper surface, originating in the primary coverts and extending across the secondary coverts to the body. The most important thing in identifying these birds is to see *all* the characters, as young Herring Gulls are very variable and first- and second-winter birds can show one or two of the field marks that distinguish young Lessers." Obviously this is an extremely difficult form to identify and care should be taken in doing so.

Owls, Flickers, Phoebes. Michael O'Brien heard 9 Eastern Screech-Owls in one location near Berlin on Jan. 5. A Snowy Owl was seen at several locations in the Frederick area from about Dec. 14 through Jan. 28 (Stauffer Miller +). Westre and Rittenhouse found 3 Short-eared Owls at Greensboro on Dec. 27, another was at Cherry Hill in Baltimore on Feb. 10 (Wilkinson), and 1 at North Branch on Feb. 16 (Simons). At Pinto Marsh on Feb. 17 Simons counted 18 Northern Flickers, evidence that the species may have wintered in above average numbers this year.

Eastern Phoebes were particularly well-represented this season with the following lingering birds: 1 at Seneca on Dec. 7 (Warfield), 1 at Lilypons on Jan. 9 (M. O'Brien) and Jan. 18 (Tony White), 1 at Bryans Road in Charles County on Jan. 13 (Hammers, Wilkinson), 1 at Berlin on Jan. 19 (Sumner), 1 at Denton on Jan. 21 (R. Fletcher), and 1 at Laurel Grove in St. Marys County on Jan. 26 (Runkles); possible early spring migrants included 1 at Pennyfield on Feb. 18 and 27 (Bonham), and single birds on Feb. 27 at Lander (Warfield) and Beltsville (Sumner).

Larks, Ravens, Nuthatches. Kirkwood estimated 100 Horned Larks in the fields near Madonna through the season, and the high count in southern Frederick County was 250 on Dec. 8 (Phil Olsen). Warfield saw 3 Northern Ravens on Jan. 9 at Lander near the extremity of the breeding range. Red-breasted Nuthatches were virtually absent this winter with reports of 1 at Patuxent River Park on Jan. 13 (Gregoire), 1 in Columbia on Feb. 13 (Boones), and 1 or 2 birds on each of eight Christmas Counts. The high count of Brown-headed Nuthatches at Point Lookout was 9 on Dec. 17 (Wilson).

Gnatcatchers, Robins, Catbirds. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher at Piscataway Park on Dec. 23 (Nistico) was an extraordinary occurrence for the winter though it has become almost annual in recent years. The first large migrant flocks of American Robins were 160 at Grasonville on Feb. 23 (Grubers) and 100 at Federalsburg on Feb. 24 (Schnick). Alex Hammer and Jim Wilkinson coaxed out 8 Gray Catbirds in Susquehanna State Park on Dec. 15, certainly another sign of the mild early winter.

Pipits, Waxwings, Shrikes. The only flocks of Water Pipits reported were 57 at Laurel Grove on Jan. 14 (Runkles) and 65 at Rock Hall on Feb. 8 (Gruber). Wilson counted 133 Cedar Waxwings in St. Marys County on Feb. 21. A Loggerhead Shrike wintered at Lilypons (D. Wallace), this being at the northern limit of the range of the resident non-migratory population. Another was seen at Finzel on Feb. 25 (fide Bystrak), this a rarity for Garrett County.

Warblers. The usual assortment of expected and unexpected warblers survived the early part of the season. Single Orange-crowned Warblers were at Williston on Dec. 15 (Engle, Bertie Plutschak) and at the National Arboretum the same day and also on Dec. 29 (Czaplak +). Among the extraordinary warblers were a Northern Parula at Denton on Dec. 28 (Westre, Hewitt), a Yellow Warbler at Back River on Dec. 9 (Hammers, Wilkinson, Webb), a female Black-throated Blue Warbler at the National Arboretum on Dec. 29 (Czaplak), a Blackburnian Warbler in Barnard Hill Park, DC, Dec. 8-15 (Czaplak +), and a male Wilson's Warbler that was seen on Dec. 23 in the Maryland portion of the Fort Belvoir CBC (George Wilmot). A Yellow-rumped Warbler in Cumberland on Jan. 25 and 27 (Simons) shows that this species winters up to the edge of the Allegheny Plateau. Palm Warblers were seen at the Naval Research Lab in DC on Dec. 5 and 18 (Czaplak), 2 at Denton on Dec. 5 and 28 (Hewitt) and 1 at Blackwater NWR on Dec. 31 (M. O'Brien).

Sparrows, Longspurs, Snow Buntings. An American Tree Sparrow at Denton on Jan. 31 (Westre) was rare in Caroline County; the high count for the season was 30 at Pinto Marsh on Feb. 24 (Simons). An impressive 44 Chipping Sparrows were counted at Denton on Feb. 1 (Westre), and 1 at Lilypons on Feb. 16 (David Wright) was rare for the Piedmont. Wintering Savannah Sparrows included 2 in Cecil County on Feb. 3 (Ringler, Blom) and 1 in Baltimore city on Feb. 17 (Ringler), a

time of the season when they are not usually seen there. Mike O'Brien found 3 Fox Sparrows at Point Lookout on Feb. 3. A high count of White-crowned Sparrows was 35 at Greensboro on Jan. 21 (Westre, Rittenhouse). The first Lapland Longspurs seen in southern Frederick County this winter were 8 on Dec. 2 (Barry Cooper); sightings continued at least through Jan. 27 when 12 were found (Wilkinson +). Paul O'Brien found 7 Snow Buntings at Summit Hall Turf Farm on Feb. 24.

Blackbirds, Orioles. A female Yellow-headed Blackbird at Rising Sun was in a flock of Common Grackles on Jan. 27 (Harold Fogelman +). Rusty Blackbirds were scarce, but 8 were at Hughes Hollow on Feb. 18 (Bonham) and 4 at Gunpowder Falls State Park on Feb. 24 (Wilkinson). A male Brewer's Blackbird was at a Columbia feeder from Jan. 19 or 20 through Feb. 1 (Richard Hagmer). The only Northern Orioles seen were single birds at the National Arboretum on Dec. 29 (Czaplak), the Point Lookout CBC on Dec. 30 (Gary Potter, Belle Mattingly), Battle Creek Cypress Swamp on Jan. 8 (Runkles), and Conowingo on Jan. 27 (Blom +). The lone Pine Siskin reported after the CBCs was at Connie Skipper's feeder in Garrett County on Feb. 7; 15 had been found on the Oakland CBC, and 1 to 5 each at Annapolis, DC, Liberty Reservoir and Lower Kent County.

3501 Melody Lane, Baltimore, MD 21207

ANNUAL REPORTS OF LOCAL CHAPTERS

ANNE ARUNDEL CHAPTER

The Anne Arundel Chapter had its usual busy year. Fifteen field trips were conducted to various locations ranging from Carey Run in the West to Chincoteague in the East. Seven programs were held during the winter months with subjects on: Butterflies, the Chesapeake Bay, Guess-a-bird slides, birding in England, Trinidad and Australia. These were topped off by our annual Wildlife Lecture that featured Ron Naveen and pelagic species. Two potluck picnics were held, with much socializing and overeating.

We had a very successful Christmas Count co-coordinated by Hal Wierenga and Wayne Klockner. The tally-up was held at the home of the Fords. Many of our members also participated in the annual May Count. As usual Anne Arundel had good representations at MOS sponsored events: Sanctuary Workdays—nine at Irish Grove and two at Carey Run; six on the Listers Trip; and more than twenty at the Convention in Salisbury.

We had two money-raising projects. A silent auction at our Fall picnic raised two hundred dollars for the Atlas project. The Annual Wildlife Lecture raised two hundred dollars for the Sanctuary and Scholarship funds. Much work was done by members for the Breeding Bird Atlas. Our Coordinator, Jim Cheevers, kept us all on schedule.

In March of 1985 we undertook a bird inventory at the Jug Bay Wetlands Sanctuary. This sanctuary is a new park in Anne Arundel County. The bird inventory is to culminate in a checklist for the park.

Dotty Mumford, President

CARROLL COUNTY CHAPTER

The Carroll County Chapter is the smallest chapter in MOS, but with only 15 members, a turnout of more than 50% at meetings and bird walks is not unusual. We meet four times a year, in September, November, February, and April. This year, slide lectures by the Chapter President on raptor identification, and by Chan Robbins on birds of Maryland were included. The chapter sponsors the Liberty Reservoir Christmas Bird Count, which involved the efforts of 48 birders this year. The chapter has also sponsored the Breeding Bird Atlas in Carroll County for 2 years, and will continue its support as the statewide atlas gets underway. A highlight of last year's atlasing was a Golden-crowned Kinglet singing on territory in a spruce grove near the Pennsylvania line.

Walks by the chapter during the last year included Piney Run County Park, Hawk Mountain (Golden Eagle), the National Arboretum (Saw-whet Owl!) and Liberty Watershed in Strawbridge Estates.

We hope that the statewide atlas effort publicity will attract more lone birders to our mini-chapter; we have made many new contacts with county birders already.

Bill Ellis, President

FREDERICK COUNTY CHAPTER

Seven regular monthly meetings were held; one was cancelled because of inclement weather. Attendance ranged from 20 to 49, with an average of 31. The annual Christmas dinner attracted 64 people. Speakers and subjects were as follows: Ken D'Loughy, "Bald Eagles in Maryland"; Richard Klein, "Save Our Streams Organization"; Robert Mumford, "Birds of Iceland"; Chandler Robbins, "Factors Affecting Migratory Songbird Populations"; Norma Lewis, "Bluebirds"; Judy Lumsden, "Rehabilitation of Injured Wildlife"; Richard Dolesh, "Great Blue Herons"; and Stauffer Miller, "Birding in Texas."

Eleven field trips were scheduled, two of which were rained out. The nine trips averaged 8-10 people and included visits to Gambrill State Park, Lilypons (twice), Eastern Shore Listers Trip, Washington Monument State Park, C & O Canal, Little Bennett Regional Park, and Sugarloaf Mountain. On the December 23 Catoctin Mountain Christmas Count, 15 people took advantage of the excellent weather to count 17,801 birds of 73 species. The count dinner and tabulation were held at the home of Mike and Donna Welch. Nineteen people participated in the annual May count on May 4, eleven in the field and eight around their homes. A total of 124 species were observed, making this one of the better counts in Frederick County.

Chapter members contributed observations to the International Shorebird Survey, *American Birds*, and *Maryland Birdlife*. Birding field trips during the annual Koi festival at Lilypons were led by Frederick MOS members and were very well attended. Chapter dues and income from the sale of sunflower seeds made it possible for the chapter to make donations to the Maryland/D.C. Breeding Bird Atlas and the Nature Conservancy.

Michael J. Welch, President

HARFORD COUNTY CHAPTER

The Harford County chapter featured 9 field trips, 1 picnic, and 4 Friday evening dinner-lectures. We also hosted the State Board of Directors meeting in March. Our membership total has reached 135.

Our activities commenced with our annual September picnic and birdwalks at Harford Glen. Birds were scarce but the food, weather, and companionship were great. Our field trips explored Susquehanna State Park (twice), Brigantine NWR, Bombay Hook NWR (twice), Loch Raven Reservoir, Ocean City (2 days), Elk Neck State Park, and the Aberdeen Proving Grounds. My favorite trip was to Ocean City in the winter. We found American Oystercatchers, Great Cormorants, and King Eiders. The leaders of our field trips deserve special thanks: John Wortman, Dennis Kirkwood, June Vaughn, and Gail Mundis.

We continue to meet on the first Friday of November, January, March, and May at the Churchville Presbyterian Church for dinner, a business meeting and a program. Our guest speakers this year included: Emerson Jackson, a club member and licensed falconer who brought along his Red-tailed Hawk, Cooper's Hawk, and a friend's Harris' Hawk; Janice Chase, a local ecologist who monitors Bald Eagle activity in the Chesapeake Bay Area for the U.S. Army; Dr. Ben Poscover who familiarized our members with MOS Sanctuaries; and Jean Worthley who enchanted us with her wildflower slides from Spain.

Birds of interest that popped up in Harford County included: a Barnacle Goose at a Norrisville farm, a White-fronted Goose at Winfield Mitchell's pond for the 5th consecutive year, a pair of Redheads at Bynum Park, a Thayer's Gull, a Golden Eagle, a Ringed Turtle-Dove, a Lesser Black-backed Gull, and numerous Bald Eagles around the county, especially near the Conowingo Dam.

Our chapter continues to have a dedicated bander in Barbara Bilsborough. She spends many hours banding at the Aberdeen Proving Grounds and Harford Glen. Mounted birds from the chapter were loaned to Isa Sieracki who is in the process of establishing a bird club in Pennsylvania. Rick Blom kept the feeders at tum Suden Sanctuary filled with bird seed. Todd Holden has resumed his morning "Birdman" bird watching tips on WAMD radio station out of Aberdeen.

Finally I thank all chapter officers for their dedication and effectiveness: William McIntosh, Vice-President; Barbara Bilsborough, Recording Secretary; Kitty Fetchero, Treasurer; Joyce Sherman and Sarah Standiford, Corresponding Secretaries; William Russell, Pat Fetchero, Barclay Tucker, and Emerson Jackson, Trustees.

Kermit L. Updegrove, President

JUG BAY BIRD CLUB

The Jug Bay Chapter completed its first year with a membership of 80 persons (23 Active, 36 Family, 11 Sustaining, 8 Chapter, 1 Student and 1 Life) at 58 mailing addresses. The group's orientation to field study and avian research has produced an almost complete ATLAS for our area, several boxes and trails for a variety of cavity nesters, three ongoing banding projects, a variety of field trips throughout the DELMARVA area, and an exciting series of programs.

John Gregoire, President

KENT COUNTY CHAPTER

The Kent Chapter held regular monthly meetings from September 1984 through June 1985. Attendance usually varied from 25 to 35. Interest in the meetings and membership have both increased this past year.

Members of the Chapter participated in the Atlas Program, the Christmas Bird Count, and the May count. Four field trips were scheduled but had very poor participation. A workshop in bird identification was conducted by Tricia Gruber, chairperson of the Education Committee. The presentation was well done and informative, but attendance was poor.

In October the Chapter conducted a yard sale to raise money for the operating expenses of the Chapter, thus preventing an increase in dues. The sale was very successful, netting over \$500. In other money matters, the Chapter contributed \$1,000 for the MOS matching fund program and \$150 to support the activities of the local bird banding station.

One of our members, Carol Baldwin McCullough, was selected as a recipient of one of the MOS Scholarships. She was also elected as the next president of our Chapter.

S.B. Hitchner, President

PATUXENT CHAPTER

The Patuxent Bird Club experienced growth and renewal during the 1984-85 year. Most noteworthy were our full schedule of speakers lined up in time for publication in the *Maryland Yellowthroat* and our move to a new meeting location. Having met for years at St. Phillip's Church in Laurel, in 1984 we moved to a conference room at the USDA Beltsville Agricultural Research Center (BARC). Club membership grew to 74 members, and attendance was found to nearly double when reminders were sent out a week in advance.

Among our fine programs this year were slide shows by Hal Wierenga on the Galapagos, Craig Faanes on American prairies, Michael Casement on vagrant landbirds at sea, Don Messersmith on New Guinea and the South Pacific Islands, Luther Goldman on Whooping Cranes, Erika Wilson on Hawaii, Eleanor Johnson on Hoopoes, Tad Eareckson on raptors and falconry, Bob Trevor on strange creatures of Australia, and Ron Naveen on seabird identification. At our May meeting, Luther Goldman, Larry Zeleny, and Paul Nistico shared some of their outstanding nature slides with us. Thanks to all of you for your superb presentations.

Our April field trip to raptor hotspot Fort Smallwood was well attended and yielded sightings of Red-tailed, Red-shouldered, Broad-winged, Sharp-shinned, and Cooper's Hawks, American Kestrel, Merlin, Northern Harrier, and Osprey. In May, Bob Whitcomb and Chan Robbins participated in a Birdathon, spotting 194 species and raising \$11,000 + for The Nature Conservancy. About 90 species were seen on our June trip to Shenandoah National Park, including Wild Turkey, Ruffed Grouse, Northern Raven, Winter Wren, Solitary Vireo, and Rose-breasted Grosbeak.

In October, Bill Murphy held a multi-chapter hawkwatch at Fort Smallwood in honor of President Reagan's proclamation of the preceding week as "National Birds of Prey Conservation Week." A letter commending the President for his proclamation and urging him to increase his support for conservation was circulated and sent to him. The Club received a letter of thanks from the White House and a signed picture of President Reagan.

On business matters, the Club voted to reserve funds at the end of each year to cover postage costs and payment of honoraria to the next year's guest speakers. We donated \$50 for Chapter membership in the Chesapeake Bird and Wildlife Sanctuary, which handled a fallout of loons and grebes following a severe winter sleet storm, and \$25 to Larry Zeleny to maintain a bird feeder at a nearby nursing home.

Rosemary Bridge, one of the original organizers of the Patuxent Bird Club and a current Director, announced that she will be moving to Washington's Olympic Peninsula this autumn. On behalf of the Patuxent Bird Club, I wish her many happy years out West and thank her for her untiring support of our chapter.

Interesting bird news included Dr. Zeleny's report that he now has 60 bluebird boxes at BARC from which about 150 young fledge each year. Danny Bystrak picked up an injured Northern Shrike, providing the first record of an adult for Maryland and an extension of 10 days to the previous departure date. The bird was rehabilitated and released by local expert and Chapter member Jane Zuke.

In closing, I'd like to thank all my officers for their generous contributions of time and energy, especially our outgoing Treasurer, Mary Lou Murphy, for modernizing the Club's accounting methods. Special thanks are due Eleanor Robbins for running the bookstore at our meetings, acting as my proxy at a number of statewide meetings, and for continued authorship of her popular birding column in the *Laurel Leader*.

Bill Murphy, President

WASHINGTON COUNTY CHAPTER

It's been a very good year for the fifteenth anniversary of this Chapter, which was started in February, 1970, and for our participation in the fortieth year of MOS. Membership of 115 was close to last year's. We had to change our meeting place in November and are grateful to Otterbein United Methodist Church, 108 E. Franklin St., Hagerstown, for responding to our need. Our meetings are held on the fourth Tuesday of the months, September through April, (except December) at 7:30 p.m., and our newsletter is published eight times a year. Through announcements in the local newspaper, we welcome anyone interested to attend. We meet outdoors informally during the summer months.

Our Fourth Annual Birding Weekend was held at the Fairview Outdoor Education Center of the Washington County, Md. school system, near Clear Spring, May 19-20. The Weekend was well-attended, and the field trips rang up an impressive new total of 137 species of birds, including 31 species of warblers! Our chapter was well represented at the MOS Convention in Frostburg in June.

In the 1984-85 Christmas Count for Washington County, 81 species (best total since 1979) were logged by 36 observers in 17 field parties and at feeders. Compiling of reports was carried out following a covered-dish dinner at Eleanor and Jean Little's.

At meetings during the cooler months, programs were heard on MOS Sanctuaries, shorebirds at Chincoteague, protected species laws, preservation of Maryland natural areas, members' favorite slides, bluebird conservation and wild-flowers at Renfrew Park (Waynesboro, Pa.). Attendance at these meetings averaged 35. Field trips were conducted in these months, also, for members and guests. Several of our members assisted at an April workday at Carey Run Sanctuary.

The hawk watch at Monument Knob near Boonsboro continued during both fall and spring migrations, with assistance by counters from several MOS chapters and West Virginia. Unusually high numbers of eagles were logged in the fall count, and a bald eagle showed up on a field trip to Millville, W. Va., in February!

In the second year of the five-year Maryland/DC Breeding Bird Atlas Project, many of our members participated actively in our county and West Virginia. Bluebird nesting box 'trails' were also maintained by members and friends in this county. Members of this chapter presented programs on birds and bird-attracting to other MOS and local groups.

My heartfelt thanks to all who helped!

Cameron D. Lewis, President

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